

We Claim:

1. A structure having a fire resistance rated, area separation wall, said structure comprising:
  - 5 (a) a first building unit;
  - (b) a second building unit; and
  - (c) a two-hour fire resistance rated, area separation wall having only outer membranes.
- 10 2. The structure according to Claim 1, further including a tying structure connecting said fire resistance rated, area separation wall to said first unit and said second unit.
- 15 3. The structure according to Claim 2, wherein said tying structure includes a top plate attached to the top edge of said fire resistance rated, area separation wall and a bottom plate attached to the bottom edge of said fire resistance rated, area separation wall.
- 20 4. The structure according to Claim 3, wherein said tying structure and said top plate forms a double top plate.
5. The structure according to Claim 3, wherein said top plate and said bottom plate are less than about 10 feet apart.
- 25 6. The structure according to Claim 1, wherein said first building unit is an occupiable space.
7. The structure according to Claim 6, wherein said occupiable space is residential.
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8. The structure according to Claim 7, wherein said residential occupiable space is a town home.

9. The structure according to Claim 1, wherein said second building unit  
5 is an occupiable space.

10. The structure according to Claim 9, wherein said occupiable space is residential.

10 11. The structure according to Claim 10, wherein said residential occupiable space is a town home.

12. A two-hour fire resistance rated, area separation wall for a structure, said area separation wall comprising:

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- (a) an interior support structure;
  - (b) only an outer membrane on each side of said interior support structure; and
  - (c) a substantially organic thermal insulation barrier between said outer membranes.

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13. The area separation wall according to Claim 12, wherein said interior support structure includes at least two structurally independent interior support members.

25 14. The area separation wall according to Claim 13, wherein said structurally independent interior support members include a plurality of vertical members.

15. The area separation wall according to Claim 14, wherein said plurality  
30 of vertical members are spaced apart.

16. The area separation wall according to Claim 15, wherein said plurality of vertical members are spaced apart no more than about 16 inches.

17. The area separation wall according to Claim 14, wherein said plurality of vertical members further include cross bracing at about the mid height of said plurality of vertical members.

18. The area separation wall according to Claim 13, further including a physical gap between said structurally independent interior support members.

19. The area separation wall according to Claim 12, wherein each of said outer membranes are fire resistant wallboard.

20. The area separation wall according to Claim 19, wherein said fire resistant wallboard is a gypsum wallboard (GWB) Type X and Type C as defined in ASTM C11.

21. The area separation wall according to Claim 20, wherein said gypsum wallboard conforms to ASTM Test C-36-96.

22. The area separation wall according to Claim 12, wherein said substantially organic thermal insulation barrier is selected from the group consisting of fibrous material, granular material, pellet material, aggregated material, agglomerated material and mixtures thereof.

23. The area separation wall according to Claim 12, wherein said substantially organic thermal insulation barrier is a natural material.

24. The area separation wall according to Claim 23, wherein said natural material is cellulosic.

25. The area separation wall according to Claim 12, wherein said substantially organic thermal insulation barrier is an acoustically non-conductive material.

- 5           26. A structure having a fire resistance rated, area separation wall, said structure comprising:
- (a) a first building unit;
  - (b) a second building unit; and
  - 10           (c) a two-hour fire resistance rated, area separation wall having only outer membranes, said area separation wall including: (i) an interior support structure; (ii) only an outer membrane on each side of said interior support structure; and (iii) a substantially organic thermal insulation barrier between said outer membranes; and
  - 15           (d) a tying structure connecting said fire resistance rated, area separation wall to said first unit and said second unit.

27. The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said tying structure includes a top plate attached to the top edge of said fire resistance rated, area  
20 separation wall and a bottom plate attached to the bottom edge of said fire resistance rated, area separation wall.

28. The structure according to Claim 27, wherein said tying structure and said top plate forms a double top plate.

25           29. The structure according to Claim 27, wherein said top plate and said bottom plate are less than about 10 feet apart.

30. The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said first building unit is  
30 an occupiable space.

31. The structure according to Claim 30, wherein said occupiable space is residential.

32. The structure according to Claim 31, wherein said residential  
5 occupiable space is a town home.

33. The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said second building unit is an occupiable space.

10 34. The structure according to Claim 33, wherein said occupiable space is residential.

35. The structure according to Claim 34, wherein said residential occupiable space is a town home.

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36. The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said interior support structure includes at least two structurally independent interior support members.

20 37. The structure according to Claim 36, wherein said structurally independent interior support members include a plurality of vertical members.

38. The structure according to Claim 37, wherein said plurality of vertical members are spaced apart.

25 39. The structure according to Claim 38, wherein said plurality of vertical members are spaced apart no more than about 16 inches.

30 40. The structure according to Claim 37, wherein said plurality of vertical members further include cross bracing at about the mid height of said plurality of vertical members.

41. The structure according to Claim 39, further including a physical gap between said structurally independent interior support members.

42. The structure according to Claim 26, wherein each of said outer  
5 membranes is a fire resistant wallboard.

43. The structure according to Claim 42, wherein said fire resistant wallboard is a gypsum wallboard (GWB) Type X and Type C as defined in ASTM C11.  
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44. The structure according to Claim 43, wherein said gypsum wallboard conforms to ASTM Test C-36-96.

45. The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said substantially organic  
15 thermal insulation barrier is selected from the group consisting of fibrous material, granular material, pellet material, aggregated material, agglomerated material and mixtures thereof.

46. The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said substantially organic  
20 thermal insulation barrier is a natural material.

47. The structure according to Claim 46, wherein said natural material is cellulosic.

25 48. The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said substantially organic thermal insulation barrier is an acoustically non-conductive material.

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